(ii) Thorough periodical examination of coaches, wagons and locomotives in sheds and shops to keep them in good fettle.

(iii) Ultrasonic testing of rails and axles to identify fractures.

(iv) Design improvement of certain type of rolling stock.

(v) Upgradation of maintenance skill of staff to suit advanced technologies.

(vi) Identification of vulnerable and derailment-prone sections and induction of necessary inputs therein

(vii) Training, counselling and monitoring of running staff.

(viii) Constitution of High-level safety teams to conduct intensive inspections of field installations and operating practices to enhance safety consciousness at the grass-root level.

Resignation by the Chairman, Konkan Railways

211 SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, Konkan Railways has submitted his resignation and if so, the details thereof;

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several top Engineers working in the tunnel and bridges on the Konkan Railways have sought permission to return to their respective Railways Zones; and

(d) if so, the details of the reasons submitted by them and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Contract for optical fibre communication system for Konkan Railways

212 SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contract for the optical fibre communication system for Konkan Railways has been finalised and if so, the names of the party to whom the said contract was given;

(b) the details of the quotation received from the contractor or the optical fibre communication system; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Chief of Konkan Railways had refused to award contract for the optical fibre communication system in favour of the person recommended by him and if so, the names of the said firm and the rates quoted by that firm?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF). (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

अहमदाबाद-हावड़ा ट्रेन का देरी से चलना

213. **श्री आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अहमदाबाद-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस डाउन और हावड़ा-अहमदाबाद एक्सप्रेस डाउन अपने निर्धारित समय से नहीं चल रही हैं; यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं ;